

department instituted its own procedure for referral to a reporting officer. In the Robert Hamill, case I was appointed as reporting officer within the Biology Department.

4. When material was submitted to the FSANI it was accompanied by FSANI Forms. Form 'A' contained all the relevant background information on the incident. Form 'B' related to material obtained from the suspect. Form 'C' related to material from the injured party and Form 'D' was other material not related to the suspect or the injured party.
5. I think we had target response times in 1997 but certainly it was understood that if a person was charged and in custody for an alleged offence, that case had to be dealt with more rapidly.
6. In 1997, we did not have provision within the FSANI for a lead officer on a case. The reporting officers did liaise with other departments if they were engaged on different aspects of the case. Now we have lead scientists, one of whom will take overall control of a particular case and pull together all aspects of the case for the investigating police. The lead scientists will play a more or less proactive role depending on the seriousness of the case. For example, on a murder investigation the lead scientist will play a crucial part in the case.
7. In the Robert Hamill case, my recollection is that I dealt primarily with the RUC. The Submission Forms, which appear at page numbers **26746 to 26787** tell me that the investigating officer on the case and the person I therefore would have dealt with was Detective Inspector Michael Irwin. I do not, however, recall having any dealings with DI Irwin. The forms are dated 7 May 1997, which was the date material was submitted to the FSANI. While I do not recall this specifically, I must have been contacted personally by the police at that early stage because I sent DNA off to be tested urgently. I would only have done that in response to a specific request by police. A murder investigation would have been top priority and the agreed turnaround time by the DNA laboratory was, and is, three days. I do not think there was any specific request on the submission forms other than to look for a transfer of bloods between the